



Amendment and Response

Applicant: Ravi Chandar et al.

Serial No.: 09/895,760

Filed: June 29, 2001

Docket No.: 10008058-1

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING COMPUTER ACCESS WITH ELECTRONIC PAYMENT MECHANISM

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 14.

Please amend claim 13, 15, and 22-26 as follows:

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:
a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation; and

a desktop user interface to enable access, upon receipt of payment authorization, to at least one of:

a program monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one software application; and

a peripheral input/output monitor configured for enabling selection of the at least one input/output device.

14. (Cancelled)

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15. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 13 wherein the selective access mechanism comprises:

a screen saver configured for appearing on a display of the computing workstation to prevent access to the desktop user interface of the computing workstation until payment authorization is received.

16-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the screen saver comprises:

an icon display representing the at least one software application available at the computer system;

a price display representing information regarding prices for using the computer system; and

a demonstration function representing the at least one software application.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~14~~13 wherein the program monitor comprises:

a keyword function menu configured to enable activation of the at least one software application and including at least one of a word processor function, a spreadsheet function, a presentation function, and an application service provider function.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim ~~14~~13 wherein the peripheral input/output monitor comprises:

a keyword function menu configured to enable activation of the at least one input/output device and including at least one of a printer function, a scanner function, a copier function, a facsimile function, and a digital sender function.

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24. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:
a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for:

determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation; and The computer system of claim 13 wherein the resource tracker is configured to

tracking use of the computer system for billing purposes including at least one of the following parameters:

time of use for the at least one software application;

time of use of the at least one input/output device; and

quantity of each item produced by the at least one input/output device.

25. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device The computer system of claim 13 wherein the at least one input/output device comprises at least one of a scanner, a printer, a facsimile machine, and a copier, each being configured for conveying input and output from the computer system;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

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a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation.

26. (Currently Amended) A selective access computer system comprising:

a computing workstation having at least one software application and at least one input/output device ~~The computer system of claim 13~~ wherein the at least one software application comprises at least one of a word processor program, a spreadsheet program, a presentation program, and an application service provider program;

a selective access mechanism for obtaining electronic payment authorization for a user's financial instrument and for permitting selective access to the computer workstation upon payment authorization for the user, the selective access mechanism including:

a credit card and bank-issued debit card reader connected to the computing workstation for obtaining payment authorization; and

a resource tracker configured for determining an amount to be charged to the user based on at least one of a total amount of time that the computer system is used and a number of requests to the at least one input/output device of the computer workstation.